

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1243

5 By: Representatives Underwood, Long, Rose  
6 By: Senator C. Penzo  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE;  
10 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS  
11 AND EXPENDITURES; TO AMEND REPORTING FOR CANDIDATES  
12 FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWNSHIP, OR MUNICIPAL OFFICE;  
13 TO AMEND REPORTING FOR CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICE;  
14 TO AMEND PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996; AND FOR  
15 OTHER PURPOSES.  
16  
17

## Subtitle

18  
19 TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY REGARDING  
20 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES;  
21 TO AMEND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING AND  
22 PROTECT ELECTION INTEGRITY; AND TO AMEND  
23 PORTIONS OF INITIATED ACT 1 OF 1996.  
24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-6-208(a), concerning reports of  
28 contributions for candidates for school district, township, or municipal  
29 office and resulting from Initiated Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as  
30 follows:

31 (a)(1) Reports required. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this  
32 section, each candidate for school district, township, or municipal office,  
33 or a person acting in the candidate's behalf, shall file with the county  
34 clerk:

35 ~~(1)(A) For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a~~  
36 ~~ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and~~



1 ~~expenditures made during that year.~~

2 ~~(B) The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen~~  
3 ~~(15) days after the end of the year;~~

4 ~~(2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential~~  
5 ~~primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or~~  
6 ~~special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a~~  
7 ~~preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made~~  
8 ~~between the period covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten~~  
9 ~~(10) days before the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall~~  
10 ~~cover all contributions received and expenditures made during that period of~~  
11 ~~time that begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose~~  
12 ~~and ends ten (10) days before the runoff election;~~

13 ~~(3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in~~  
14 ~~which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential~~  
15 ~~primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or~~  
16 ~~special election, or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular~~  
17 ~~office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall~~  
18 ~~appear on a ballot, file a final report of all contributions received and~~  
19 ~~expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required~~  
20 ~~to be filed. A final report is required regardless of whether a candidate has~~  
21 ~~received contributions or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars~~  
22 ~~(\$500);~~

23 ~~(4) File supplemental reports of all contributions received and~~  
24 ~~expenditures made after the date of preparation of the final report. The~~  
25 ~~supplemental reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt~~  
26 ~~of a contribution or the making of an expenditure;~~

27 ~~(5)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month~~  
28 ~~in which the candidate has withdrawn, file a final report of all~~  
29 ~~contributions received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on~~  
30 ~~reports previously required to be filed.~~

31 ~~(B) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign, the~~  
32 ~~candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal; and~~

33 ~~(6) If a candidate keeps remaining campaign funds after an~~  
34 ~~election, the candidate shall continue filing the reports required by this~~  
35 ~~subsection (A)(i) A quarterly report of all contributions received and~~  
36 ~~expenditures made for each quarter during a calendar year in which a~~

1 candidate is not listed on a ballot for election.

2 (ii) The quarterly report required under this  
3 subdivision (a)(1)(A) shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after  
4 the end of each quarter;

5 (B)(i) A monthly report of all contributions received and  
6 expenditures made during each month beginning with the month of January of a  
7 calendar year in which a candidate may be listed on a ballot for election.

8 (ii) A monthly report shall not be due under this  
9 subdivision (a)(1)(B) for a month in which certain days of that month are  
10 included in a preelection report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this  
11 section or a final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this  
12 section.

13 (iii) In the case of a primary or runoff election,  
14 those days of the month occurring after the date of the election shall be  
15 carried forward and included in the next monthly report required under this  
16 subdivision (a)(1)(B).

17 (iv) The monthly report required under this  
18 subdivision (a)(1)(B) shall be filed no later than twenty (20) days after the  
19 end of each month, except that the final report covering the month during  
20 which an election is held shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the  
21 end of the month in which the last election is held at which the candidate  
22 seeks nomination and after the end of the month in which the general election  
23 is held.

24 (v) With respect to a special election, the  
25 candidate shall file monthly reports under this subdivision (a)(1)(B)  
26 beginning with the month in which the special election candidate's total  
27 campaign contributions or expenditures exceed five hundred dollars (\$500);

28 (C)(i) No later than seven (7) days before a preferential  
29 primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or  
30 special election in which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, a  
31 preelection report of all contributions received and expenditures made  
32 between the period covered by the previous report and the period ten (10)  
33 days before the election.

34 (ii) In case of a runoff election, the preelection  
35 report required under this subdivision (a)(1)(C) shall cover all  
36 contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that

1 begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends  
2 ten (10) days before the runoff election;

3 (D)(i) A final report of all contributions received and  
4 expenditures made for that election that have not been disclosed on reports  
5 previously required to be filed no later than the last day of the month after  
6 the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot  
7 in a primary election, runoff election, general election, school election, or  
8 special election or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular  
9 office or position and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall  
10 appear on a ballot.

11 (ii) A final report is required under this  
12 subdivision (a)(1)(D) whether or not a candidate has received contributions  
13 or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500); and

14 (E)(i) A final report of all contributions received and  
15 expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required  
16 to be filed.

17 (ii) The final report under this subdivision  
18 (a)(1)(E) shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the  
19 month in which the candidate has withdrawn.

20 (iii) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign,  
21 the candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal.

22 (2)(A) A candidate shall not be required to file a fourth  
23 quarter report under this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining  
24 campaign funds after an election but does not have any activity before the  
25 end of the year.

26 (B) A candidate shall continue filing the reports required  
27 by this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining campaign funds and raises  
28 campaign funds for a future campaign or expends campaign funds for office  
29 holder expenses or a future election.

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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-6-209(a), concerning reports of  
32 contributions for candidates for county office and resulting from Initiated  
33 Act 1 of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

34 (a)(1) Reports Required. Except as provided in subsection (d) of this  
35 section, each candidate for county office or a person acting in the  
36 candidate's behalf shall file with the county clerk:

1           ~~(1)(A) For each year in which a candidate is not listed on a~~  
2 ~~ballot for election, file an annual report of all contributions received and~~  
3 ~~expenditures made during that year.~~

4           ~~(B) The annual report shall be filed no later than fifteen~~  
5 ~~(15) days after the end of the year;~~

6           ~~(2) No later than seven (7) days prior to any preferential~~  
7 ~~primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in~~  
8 ~~which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, file a preelection report~~  
9 ~~of all contributions received and expenditures made between the period~~  
10 ~~covered by the previous report, if any, and the period ten (10) days before~~  
11 ~~the election. In case of a runoff election, the report shall cover all~~  
12 ~~contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that~~  
13 ~~begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends~~  
14 ~~ten (10) days before the runoff election;~~

15           ~~(3) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month in~~  
16 ~~which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot in any preferential~~  
17 ~~primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election, or~~  
18 ~~when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position and~~  
19 ~~no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot, file~~  
20 ~~a final report of all contributions received and expenditures made that have~~  
21 ~~not been disclosed on reports previously required to be filed. A final report~~  
22 ~~is required regardless of whether a candidate has received contributions or~~  
23 ~~made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500);~~

24           ~~(4) File supplemental reports of all contributions received and~~  
25 ~~expenditures made after the date of preparation of the final report, and the~~  
26 ~~supplemental reports shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt~~  
27 ~~of a contribution or the making of an expenditure;~~

28           ~~(5)(A) No later than thirty (30) days after the end of the month~~  
29 ~~in which the candidate has withdrawn, a final report of all contributions~~  
30 ~~received and expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports~~  
31 ~~previously required to be filed.~~

32           ~~(B) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign, the~~  
33 ~~candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal; and~~

34           ~~(6) If a candidate keeps remaining campaign funds after an~~  
35 ~~election, the candidate shall continue filing the reports required by this~~  
36 ~~subsection (A)(i) A quarterly report of all contributions received and~~

1 expenditures made for each quarter during a calendar year in which a  
2 candidate is not listed on a ballot for election.

3 (ii) The quarterly report required under this  
4 subdivision (a)(1)(A) shall be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after  
5 the end of each quarter;

6 (B)(i) A monthly report of all contributions received and  
7 expenditures made during each month beginning with the month of January of a  
8 calendar year in which a candidate may be listed on a ballot for election.

9 (ii) A monthly report shall not be due under this  
10 subdivision (a)(1)(B) for a month in which certain days of that month are  
11 included in a preelection report required under subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this  
12 section or a final report required under subdivision (a)(1)(D) of this  
13 section.

14 (iii) In the case of a primary or runoff election,  
15 those days of the month occurring after the date of the election shall be  
16 carried forward and included in the next monthly report required under this  
17 subdivision (a)(1)(B).

18 (iv) The monthly report required under this  
19 subdivision (a)(1)(B) shall be filed no later than twenty (20) days after the  
20 end of each month, except that the final report covering the month during  
21 which an election is held shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the  
22 end of the month in which the last election is held at which the candidate  
23 seeks nomination and after the end of the month in which the general election  
24 is held.

25 (v) With respect to a special election, the  
26 candidate shall file monthly reports under this subdivision (a)(1)(B)  
27 beginning with the month in which the special election candidate's total  
28 campaign contributions or expenditures exceed five hundred dollars (\$500);

29 (C)(i) No later than seven (7) days before a preferential  
30 primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election in  
31 which the candidate's name appears on the ballot, a preelection report of all  
32 contributions received and expenditures made between the period covered by  
33 the previous report and the period ten (10) days before the election.

34 (ii) In case of a runoff election, the preelection  
35 report required under this subdivision (a)(1)(C) shall cover all  
36 contributions received and expenditures made during that period of time that

1 begins after the date of the election from which the runoff arose and ends  
2 ten (10) days before the runoff election;

3 (D)(i) A final report of all contributions received and  
4 expenditures made for that election that have not been disclosed on reports  
5 previously required to be filed no later than the last day of the month after  
6 the end of the month in which the candidate's name has appeared on the ballot  
7 in a primary election, runoff election, general election, or special election  
8 or when only one (1) candidate qualifies for a particular office or position  
9 and no position or name of an unopposed candidate shall appear on a ballot.

10 (ii) A final report is required under this  
11 subdivision (a)(1)(D) whether or not a candidate has received contributions  
12 or made expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500); and

13 (E)(i) A final report of all contributions received and  
14 expenditures made that have not been disclosed on reports previously required  
15 to be filed.

16 (ii) The final report under this subdivision  
17 (a)(1)(E) shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the end of the  
18 month in which the candidate has withdrawn.

19 (iii) If a candidate withdraws from the campaign,  
20 the candidate shall notify the county clerk in writing of the withdrawal.

21 (2)(A) A candidate shall not be required to file a fourth  
22 quarter report under this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining  
23 campaign funds after an election but does not have any activity before the  
24 end of the year.

25 (B) A candidate shall continue filing the reports required  
26 by this subsection if the candidate keeps remaining campaign funds and raises  
27 campaign funds for a future campaign or expends campaign funds for office  
28 holder expenses or a future election.

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